



## Why we need to Repower NSW

Most of our electricity in NSW comes from old, polluting coal-fired power stations, while other places, including Scotland, Denmark and California, are powered by clean, renewable energy.

Pollution from coal and gas plants is harming our health and dangerously warming the climate. This is causing more intense bushfires, heatwaves, storms, and sea level rise threatening our communities and nature.

NSW is falling dangerously behind on cleaning up our climate pollution and missing out on a wave of investment and jobs from a renewable energy boom.

For a safe climate, clean air, regional jobs and to protect our special wild places, it's time to Repower NSW.

### Our goals

To move NSW to a clean, reliable, affordable energy system, the NSW Government must:

1. Commit to sourcing all our electricity from clean, renewable sources.
2. Encourage investment in energy storage, including batteries, pumped-hydro, and solar thermal storage.
3. Rule out new coal mines and gas fields in NSW.
4. Support workers and communities as coal-fired power stations and coal mines close.
5. Protect community health by cleaning up air pollution from coal-fired power stations.



## Repower Policy Plan

A transition to a clean, reliable, renewable energy system in NSW can be achievable with the following steps:

### Rapidly expand renewables

1. Commit to sourcing all of our electricity from clean, renewable sources, including solar and wind. In order to avoid dangerous climate change, this must be a rapid transition, with firm interim targets:
  - a. **Target 1:** Obtain 23.5% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2020, our fair share of the federal renewable energy target.
  - b. **Target 2:** Obtain 50% of our electricity from clean, reliable, renewable sources by 2025. The NSW Government can progress towards this goal by building on existing programs that encourage construction of new renewable energy plants by providing price certainty. Similar programs have resulted in very low power prices in the ACT.
  - c. **Target 3:** Obtain 100% of our electricity from clean, reliable, renewable sources by 2030.

### Phase out coal-fired power stations

2. In association with increasing renewable energy capacity, develop a plan to phase-out coal-fired power stations by 2030.
  - a. Establish and fund a transition authority led by workers, community, industry and the government to plan for the orderly and just transition from coal-fired power in the Hunter Valley, Central Coast and Lithgow. The plan must give certainty and support to power station workers and enable them to put their skills to work in the renewable energy sector. Since 2012, three coal-fired power stations in NSW have retired with no plan for supporting workers or communities.

### Make the grid more reliable

3. Create incentives for investment in storage technologies, including grid-scale and distributed batteries, pumped hydro, and solar thermal with storage to make our electricity grid more reliable.
4. Prioritise construction of a commercial-scale solar thermal power station in NSW.

## **Increase efficiency and contain costs to consumers**

5. Keep energy costs down, reduce waste and help vulnerable households by implementing comprehensive energy-efficiency programs.
  - a. Require disclosure of the energy star-rating of all houses at point of sale.
  - b. Implement minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties
  - c. Implement programs to assist low-income households to reduce their energy bills and consumption.

## **Empower communities to find their own solutions**

6. Kickstart community energy projects and support them to succeed by establishing hubs of knowledge and support (Community Powerhouses).

## **Reform the National Energy Market**

7. Reform the National Electricity Market to make pollution reduction one of its top three priorities, along with affordability and reliability.

## **Protect public health**

8. Protect community health by cleaning up pollution from coal-fired power stations and pollution controls in line with global best practice.
  - a. Conduct independent health impact studies for each coal-fired power station.
  - b. Set pollution limits in line with world best practice. (Currently our power stations exceed US standards for sulphur dioxide and mercury by several times.)
  - c. Increase pollution licence fees for harmful pollutants like SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and mercury to reflect the health costs to people and our health system and encourage companies to reduce pollution. Doctors estimate a cost-reflective scheme would charge \$2000 per unit of pollution, 49 times the current rate.

## **Rehabilitate toxic power stations and mine sites**

9. Ensure power stations and mines are fully rehabilitated when they close so taxpayers do not have to pay.
  - a. Review the costs of rehabilitation at all power stations (including wind farms) and mines, and increase rehabilitation bonds as needed
  - b. Require companies to plan to decommission lakes and ash dams and dispose of ash as hazardous waste to ensure pollutants do not escape into the environment.



## Reduce carbon pollution beyond the energy sector

10. Without interim targets, the Government's existing 2050 objective of net-zero emissions is unaccountable and will have little impact.
  - a. Set five-yearly targets towards this goal, and a concrete plan for reaching them.
  - b. The zero-emissions goal needs to be legislated so that all government decision-makers must consider the impact of their decisions on reaching this goal.
  - c. Ensure that NSW reduces pollution in line with limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees, as per the Paris Agreement.

## No new coal or gas projects

11. Rule out new coal and gas projects for New South Wales.
  - a. Legislate permanent protection for farmland, water catchments, special natural areas and communities.
  - b. Give landholders the right to say no to coal and gas projects on their land.

## What is Repower?

#Repower is a movement of Australians working together to power our country with energy from the sun and wind. Together we're taking on the big polluting companies and demanding our elected representatives step up and lead a fair transition from dirty fuels like coal and gas to clean, renewable energy.

Join us at [www.RepowerNSW.org.au](http://www.RepowerNSW.org.au)

## What is the Nature Conservation Council of NSW?

The Nature Conservation Council is a force for positive change. Representing more than 150 community organisations with a combined membership of over 60,000 individuals, we have provided a powerful voice for nature for over 60 years. Together we are committed to protecting and restoring the unique natural environment of our state.

We have campaigned successfully to protect our forests and oceans, control land clearing, restore rivers and wetlands to health and promote clean renewable energy. Our community is our greatest strength.

